

Staff Highlights

September 2003

Primary Care & Rural Health Unit

Section of Community Health & Emergency Medical Services

Division of Public Health

Department of Health & Social Services

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Anthony E. Zenk

Analyst Programmer IV, Health Alert Network

Biographical Information

Anthony received a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Alaska in 1995. He received a B.S. in Mathematics and Psychology from Boise State University in 1981. He has worked for the State of Alaska performing research and analysis of health related data and has worked for the Federal Government as a research physical scientist and statistician. Anthony has several years of experience analyzing health-related data and systems within the Division of Public Health.

Anthony E. Zenk

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Focus of Position

Anthony supports development and maintenance of the Health Alert Network, an information system for alerting responders in the event of a bio-terrorism attack.

The Health Alert Network also has application to a statewide public health information system

Primary Responsibilities

Support development and maintenance of the Health Alert Network

Gather geographic information for analysis and mapping of geographical data

Coordinate with other agencies on issues related to data, security of data, and information system security



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Patricia Carr

Unit Manager
Health Program Manager III, Primary Care & Rural Health Unit

Biographical Information

Pat received her Master of Public Health at the University of North Carolina in 1975, where she also received a B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology. Her experience includes working with various health centers, communities, coalitions, rural health programs, child health programs, grants, program management, and resource development. She worked for local and state government in North Carolina. She was a faculty member in the Department of Public Health Education at University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Pat also has experience working as a private contractor on various health projects focusing on community-based interventions and risk reduction. Pat moved to Alaska in 1994 and has been working for Alaska Division of Public Health since 1995.

Primary Responsibilities

Provide oversight for the primary care, rural health, telemedicine, health alert network, distance learning, bioterrorism training and education, workforce development, health professions, and rural hospital programs

Provide leadership in health policy analysis and resource development

Serve as director of the Primary Care Office, Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program

Prepare needs assessments, statewide health services and facilities plans, management objectives, and program documents

Manage grants and contracts

Supervise Primary Care & Rural Health Unit staff

Coordinate statewide coalitions and committees

Develop budgets, program evaluations, and reports

Serve as member of management team for the Section of Community Health and Emergency Medical Services



Marti Thornton

Administrative Clerk III

Biographical Information

Marti has been employed by DHSS since June 1989. She previously worked for DFYS and transferred to public health in the Medicaid Services Unit in November 1994. She started working for CHEMS in October 2001.

Primary Responsibilities

Provide administrative support for staff in the Anchorage CHEMS office

Have a working knowledge of the Primary Care and Rural Health Unit, Tobacco Prevention and Control Unit, and the Injury Prevention Unit to coordinate with each units' Juneau staff

Locate and reserve meeting rooms in Anchorage for Juneau personnel

Work with Anchorage building management to maintain proper office functions, order supplies, and order library and educational materials

Act as site coordinator for the Alaska Public Health Training Network

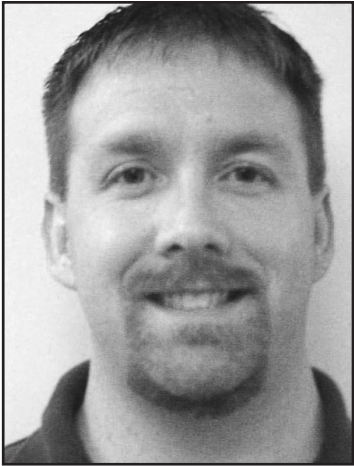
Marti Thornton
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Focus of Position
Marti provides administrative support for the Anchorage CHEMS office

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Focus of Position
Unit Manager for the Primary Care and Rural Health Unit



Noel D. Rea

Public Health Specialist II

Biographical Information

Noel received his Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University in 1991. He worked at the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, developing the Ryan White Early Intervention and Care program, from 1991-1994. He then worked for the State of Alaska, Section of Epidemiology, providing technical assistance, site reviews, disease investigation and surveillance from 1994-2001. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center since 1998.

Noel D. Rea

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Focus of Position

Serves in health systems development, including federal and state primary care statutes and policy analysis, network development, community development, collaboration among primary care and other organizations, institutionalization of health care policies and programs, resource nalysis, and advocacy for health systems sustainability

Primary Responsibilities

- Collaborate among professional groups and partner organizations to assure effective implementation of the Primary Care Program.
Conduct federal and state statute and policy analysis that are related to primary care systems and services. Document and report federal and state statute and policy issues that are barriers, and monitor the pending changes in statutes and policies for their impact on the Primary Care Program.
Participate in developing work plans, grant proposals, and documentation of program needs.
Increase coordination among boards and chief executive officers who are responsible for policy and resource decisions about primary care and health systems development.
Research available and needed resources to support the primary care workforce, programs, service delivery, and facilities.
Travel to local communities, state meetings and national conferences, where rural health issues are addressed, to represent the PCO.



Terry Baines

Health Program Manager II, Telehealth Coordinator

Biographical Information

Terry received his Master of Public Health and Master of Business Administration degrees concurrently from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1989, with his undergrad B.A. degree in Business Administration earned in 1982. His experience in health care has been primarily in health care administration with Indian Health Service and tribal health organizations, mostly in Alaska. As a result, he has extensive knowledge of the Indian Health System in rural Alaska. Technical skills include proposal writing, program and policy development, computer applications, budget development, and management. Terry was born and raised in Sitka, Alaska.

Terry K. Baines

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Focus of Position

Telemedicine Coordinator for the State DHSS, serving as a liaison between telehealth participants and state, advocating for telehealth participants and telemedicine development in Alaska

Primary Responsibilities

- Provide leadership for the Division of Public Health in utilizing telehealth as a means of increasing accessibility, quantity, and cost-effectiveness of health care services to Alaskans
Represent State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services on telehealth initiatives and workgroups in Alaska, voicing the State's position and serving as a resource person for such workgroups
Inform appropriate department managers on telehealth developments in Alaska
Organize and facilitate inter-agency efforts to further delineate telehealth opportunities
Collaborate with other State programs on related grant and other funding opportunities
Track efficacy and effectiveness of telehealth projects in Alaska
Develop budgets, program evaluations, and reports
Act as liaison and resource for technical assistance for rural health care providers who are applying for USF funding



Nancy Barros

Project Coordinator, Public Health Workforce Development Project

Biographical Information

Nancy received a Masters degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix in 1995 and a B.A. in 1993. She has spent a great deal of her career in advocacy positions. As part of a national movement to find missing children, she founded Missing Children of America, Inc. in Anchorage in 1981 and worked with the FBI and State Department to start the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. She has worked as the Director of a Red Cross Chapter and served a Fellowship in Region VII (Kansas City) for HUD as a Community Builder and Field Instructor at the School of Social Work at Arizona State University. She has come to CHEMS after serving one year in DPH Director’s office as a Health Planner II.

Primary Responsibilities

Manage the project funded by the University of Washington for the Regional Training Network for Public Health Workforce Development

Conduct public health workforce assessments, inventory training resources, and compile reports on the Alaska public health workforce development and training needs.

Coordinate public health workforce development functions with other public health training staff within the Division of Public Health

Serve as the Alaska project liaison to the multi-state Regional Training Network for Public Health Workforce Development, Northwest Public Health Training Center based at the University of Washington

Focus of Position

Serves as the coordinator for the Division’s Public Health Workforce Initiative and is responsible for facilitating the identification and prioritization of public health workforce training needs in Alaska and the implementation of plans to address prioritized needs

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Alice Rarig

Health and Social Services Planner III

Biographical Information

Alice Rarig has a background in health policy and management, epidemiology, biostatistics (MPH, Yale; PhD, University of Massachusetts), with work experience in local and state public health practice, planning, teaching and demography. Recently, she managed the planning process for developing the Healthy Alaskans 2010 plan for the state, as manager of the DPH Data and Evaluation Unit. Alice is currently teaching as an adjunct faculty in the Health Sciences program of the University of Alaska Southeast, Introduction to Public Health.

Primary Responsibilities

Data gathering, analysis and reporting associated with Medically Underserved Areas and Health Professional Shortage Designation work

Assisting with Rural Hospital Flexibility Project

Developing reports based on the hospital discharge data for Alaska

Providing technical advice and assistance to DPH staff regarding population data, epidemiological and evaluation methods, and health statistics

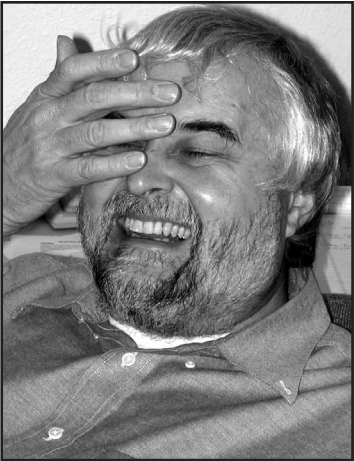
Updating and improving the Primary Care Management Information System

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Focus of Position

Currently handle the health professional shortage designation process, and provide data and policy analysis support to the PC/RH Unit especially in relation to population data, hospital discharge data, and the primary care management information system.



Mark Millard

Health Program Manager II, Community Development Coordinator

Biographical Information

Mark is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He received his Master of Social Work degree from the University of Kansas in May of 1980. Mark moved to Alaska in December of 1980 to develop mental health services on Prince of Wales Island. Mark worked in community mental health centers on Prince of Wales Island and in the communities of Ketchikan and Juneau until 1988. From 1988 to 2001 he directed the Social Work Services for the Juneau Medical and Dental Clinic of the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium.

Mark Millard

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Focus of Position

Mark provides on-going contact and technical assistance through community development strategies with communities in Alaska to increase access to care. He also manages community development project goals, objectives and activities for the Primary Care Program

Primary Responsibilities

Manage budgetary functions, staffing, workplan objectives, and reporting for the community development portion of the Primary Care Program

Lead efforts within the Primary Care Program in developing new health centers and safety net providers in communities not currently served, assist existing safety net providers to expand into new communities or services, and strengthen existing safety net providers to better serve their communities

Provide leadership in securing ongoing funding for the continuation of the Primary Care Program objectives related to community development

Provide technical assistance to communities and clinics on primary care funding and resource development and conduct extensive technical assistance through site visits, correspondence, conference calls, and establishment of professional services contracts

Work with professional health care groups and statewide primary care organizations to ensure coordination of primary care services to underserved and geographically isolated communities

Conduct research on communities' needs for primary care, coordinate development of community plans for primary care



Kim Busch

Rural Health Program Manager

Biographical Information

Kim has worked for the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) since 1975. Much of her career has focused on health care, beginning with eligibility policy in the Division of Public Assistance, moving to Medicaid and other health care coverage and financing policy in 1982, and progressing to the Division of Public Health in 1997 with an emphasis on rural health system development.

Kim Busch

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Focus of Position

Serves as manager for the State Office of Rural Health and the coordinator for the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) grants and the facilitator for the Section's Anchorage office

Primary Responsibilities

Manage State Office of Rural Health (SORH) grant that involves establishing and maintaining information clearinghouse information on rural health issues; coordinating activities in State rural healthcare; identifying programs regarding rural health and providing assisting participation; develop rural health policies through inter-organization collaborations and representing the SORH with National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Prepare guidance for financial analyses, needs assessments and hospital performance improvement initiatives and tools

Develop and manage Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility grant including designation of Critical Access Hospitals, rural health network development, and quality improvement. Collaborate with many organizations as well as hospitals, communities, and clinics to carry out the requirements of both the Flex grant and the State Office of Rural Health grant

Coordinate the Flex Advisory Committee, CAH CEO/CFO Workgroup, and co-facilitate the Alaska/Washington CAH/CMS/Premera meetings

Manage the Small Hospital Performance Improvement grant program

Serve on the Community Health Aide Certification Board



Jean Findley

Health Program Manager; SEARCH: Alaskan Exposure Coordinator

Biographical Information

Jean has a B.A. in Anthropology and a Juris Doctorate from the University of California. In 1981, she moved to Juneau and worked as a legal assistant at the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. She then coordinated a Cross-Cultural Task Force at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, where she developed and taught intercultural communication. Jean has managed training for the University of Alaska and has also been involved in researching and publishing prevention strategies for the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence.

Jean Findley

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Focus of Position

Jean serves as a manager for a federally funded program that places health profession students into rotations in underserved areas. The goal is to boost the number of effective, culturally competent care providers in underserved areas in Alaska. She also manages a portion of the recruitment activities for health professionals statewide with a focus on the National Health Service Corps

Primary Responsibilities

- Manage the National Healthcare Services Corps SEARCH (Student Experiences and Rotations in Community Health) Alaskan Exposure Program that enables health professions students to take rotations in underserved areas
Oversee participant eligibility criteria, application process, matching to sites, learning objectives, evaluation, and reporting requirements
Oversee training for preceptors and development of clinical training sites
Coordinate recruitment and retention activities for primary care health professionals with a focus on National Health Service Corps loan and scholarship programs
Prepare federal grant applications, monitor federal budget and state management plan, and oversee funding to SEARCH: Alaskan Exposure training sites
Lead a regional Site Development Committee to assure that Alaskan clinical sites with primary care shortages have workable access to recruitment tools



Raj Maskay

Health Program Manager II, Distance Learning Coordinator (DLC)

Biographical Information

Born and raised in Nepal, Raj graduated with a M.D. degree from the Minsk State Medical Institute, Belarus in 1988. He practiced medicine in Nepal then pursued a formal Master's degree in public health from the University of Northern Colorado. He served as Health Educator II/Health Education Coordinator for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel, Alaska. He became a Certified Health Education Specialist in 2000. Raj enjoys traveling and is fluent in Russian, Hindi, and Nepali. He worked as base camp physician and liaison officer for the Imari Club, Saga, Japan, and Nepal Police joint expedition to Mt. Cheo in 1991. Raj worked as a Public Health Specialist I at the Section of Community Health and Emergency Medical Services where he established the Alaska Poison Control System.

Raj Maskay

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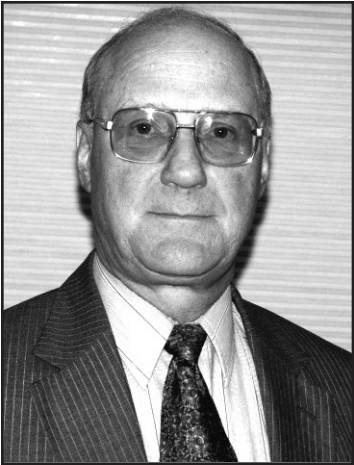
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Focus of Position

Raj is responsible for the overall coordination of all distance learning activities for the Division of Public Health and serves as the State's Distance Learning Coordinator for the CDC and Public Health Training Network (PHTN)

Primary Responsibilities

- Support and coordinate Focus Area G education and training for the CDC bioterrorism grant
Develop a statewide distance learning system and coordinate and market distance learning activities
Work with State agencies and statewide committees related to health education
Participate in assessments of public health training needs and technical capacity of the statewide public health workforce
Procure services for distance-delivered public health training
Develop a Public Health Training Network information center and website
Coordinate with and provide continuing education credits for public health professionals
Conduct basic training on internet usage and accessing health information online and distance learning technologies



George Ives

Health & Social Services Planner II

Biographical Information

George Ives has experience in a wide spectrum of the human services field commencing in 1973 working in a developmental disability program. Geroge has worked with the Idaho Dept. of Health and Social Services, Uinta County Wyoming, Phillips Alcoholism Treatment Center in Bethel, Army Community Services and Army Emergency Relief Officer at Fort Wainwright, Family Advocacy Program with the 3rd Medical Group, and Elmendorf AFB. He previously coordinated the Alaska Maternal Infant Mortality Review Project. George has received Baccalaureate degrees from the University of Colorado and Master of Science and a Master of Public Administration from Idaho State University and is married with four adult children and two grandchildren.

Primary Responsibilities

Evaluate changes in the health system on a statewide basis and write reports on the potential affects of those changes on small rural hospitals and rural health networks.

Write the Small Hospital Improvement Program grant to HRSA.

Coordinate with the Alaska State Hospital Performance Improvement Network Director to provide appropriate professional-level support through technical assistance that conforms with state and federal regulations.

Provide critical support in the development of infrastructure plans to provide assistance for Critical Access Hospital’s (CAH) work force and network development.

Responsible for ensuing data integrity, which includes the administration of web page program information and collection of information on mortality, hospital discharges, risk behavior, and continuing education.

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Focus of Position

The focus of this position is to support the mission of the Primary Care and the State of Office of Rural Health. Specifically, designs and coordinates the development of a state service plan by evaluating and monitoring federal and state statutes, regulations, and policies with emphasis on those that affect the financial and operational stability of small rural hospitals.



Jacqueline Fowler

Health Program Manager II, Primary Care Program

Biographical Information

Jacqueline has a B.A. in education with emphasis in multi-cultures, a teacher’s type A certificate and a Master of Public Administration with an emphasis in management. She studied anthropology and archaeology at Goddard College in Vermont and has 10 years experience teaching early elementary and children with special needs. Jacqueline directed a non-profit organization where she developed and monitored budgets, wrote grants, and helped build a new facility. She served as Assistant Director with Hope Community Resources and Admin. Mananger III with Alyeska Central School. She worked for five years with Health Promotions as a college intern. Jacqueline is a previous president of Cordova Planning and Zoning Commission and currently serves on the CBJ Commission.

Primary Responsibilities

Assist Unit Manager with Primary Care budget and expenditures

Manage the Assistance for Community Health Facilities Grant Program

Assure that organizational stakeholders receive timely updates on health care access issues

Identifiy and award grants and contracts

Write and distribute issue briefs regarding health care access needs and services

Analyze health care trends and reports based current local, state, and national data

Collaborate with local and statewide organizations to develop white papers on emerging and critical health care access concerns

Prepare summary analyses of needs scores for organizations preparing community health center applications

Track health care access studies conducted by DHSS and other statewide health care organizations

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Focus of Position

Jacqueline is responsible for the major program management functions to implement and administer the statewide Primary Care Program to assure access to basic health services.



Jodie Harris

Administrative Clerk III

Biographical Information

Jodie received her Bachelor of Science degree in Music and Youth Ministries from Central Christian College of Kansas in 1997. Since then, she has toured with a college-based music team, worked in a variety of office settings providing customer service and administrative support, was a stay-at-home mother, and worked as a pre-school teacher. Jodie has lived in Alaska since 2000.

Jodie Harris

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Focus of Position

Jodie serves as lead Administrative Clerk for the Primary Care and Rural Health Unit, Primary Care Cooperative Agreement Grant Program, Alaskan Exposure Grant Program, Telehealth Program, and Community Health Facilities State Grant Program

Primary Responsibilities

- Provides grant administrative support including monitoring and reconciling grants, assembling quarterly fiscal reports, informing the program manager of discrepancies, contacting grantees for clarification or more information when needed on fiscal matters
- Provides administrative support functions for the Primary Care and Rural Health Unit under the supervision of the Unit Manager
- Design, create, update, and maintain databases and mailing lists for program committees and organizational contacts
- Prepares, tracks, and finalizes travel authorizations and travel arrangements for program and non-program staff
- Provides assistance to the Alaskan Exposure Program Coordinator regarding travel of students for community placements
- Analyzes various primary care projects and subsequently design and create spreadsheets and forms to meet project needs



Joyce Hughes

Public Health Specialist II

Biographical Information

Joyce received a BA in Social Science from Ohio State University in 1963 and an MAT in Elementary Education and Cross-Cultural Counseling from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1980. She completed the coursework and internship for an MA in Community Psychology at UAF in 1989. She has worked in Alaska with Health and Social Service programs since 1964.

Joyce Hughes

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Focus of Position

Joyce provides expertise in health care service management and health care organization

Primary Responsibilities

- Provide consultation, training, and technical assistance in public health resources, service delivery planning, and models for rural primary clinics and rural health networks
- Provide assistance to rural primary care providers on preventive guidelines, licensure, loan repayment, and current or emerging research related to provision of care to those with low income and the underserved
- Conduct site reviews in primary care clinics and communities to provide technical assistance with state and federal program guidance
- Coordinate with the regional and statewide organizations and networks to address gaps in primary care delivery systems
- Manages health care services and organization, providing a focus on prevention services in their primary care settings